

## Coins

# '60 Minutes' report has collector in shock

By Roger Boye

**HERE ARE ANSWERS** to some more questions of general interest from Tribune readers.

**Q—I've ordered medals from the Franklin Mint for five years, thinking that they were a nice investment. Needless to say, I was shocked to see the recent report on "60 Minutes" (a CBS television program). Are my collectibles really worth so little? Are there any books on the subject?—A.J., Chicago**

**A—Yes, collectors are unable to sell many of their Franklin Mint medals at a profit. As the report noted, there are simply more medals in existence than persons wanting to buy them.**

Of course, you must remember that some—perhaps many—collectors don't necessarily care about making a profit on the keepsakes they buy from private mints. Such persons are primarily hobbyists, not investors, who appreciate the beauty of well-produced medallion art.

To determine the approximate retail value of your collection, buy a copy of "Guidebook of Franklin Mint Issues, 1978 Edition," by Chester L. Krause. The book also includes mintage fig-

ures for all Franklin Mint items made since 1965. If you can't find a copy at your favorite hobby store, send \$8.50 to Krause Publications, Iola, Wis. 54945.

**Q—Recently you answered a question from M.S. of Evanston who has some silver dollars to sell. I would like to buy those coins, so please send me his address.—M.J., Chicago.**

**A—Sorry, but the purpose of the column is to provide information. I am not a go-between for persons wanting to buy or sell coins.**

**Q—My neighbor says there are two kinds of 1970-S cents, with one variety valuable to collectors. Is this true? I have more than 100 1970-S cents I want to check.—D.G., Chicago.**

**A—The two varieties are known as the "small date" and "large date." Dealers sell uncirculated specimens of the small date for more than \$1; the large date is common.**

It is difficult to distinguish the two varieties without a magnifying glass. In the small date, the tops of the four digits are aligned; in the large date, the top of the digit "7" is slightly below the other three digits.